

With several honorary doctorates and other awards as well as an extensive production of books, articles and films in addition to his many expeditions and travels, he lived a very productive and full life. With his artistic and intellectual abilities he has, for example, created such classic books as *Kon-Tiki*, *Aku-Aku* *The Secrets of Easter Island*, which were enjoyed by millions of readers all around the world. Furthermore, his scientific papers and books have in various ways inspired a whole generation of scientists dealing with prehistory of the Pacific.

The Famous Kon-Tiki raft as well as *RA II* are housed at the Kon-Tiki Museum in Oslo which was started by Heyerdahl and Knut Haugland (one of the crew on Kon-Tiki) in 1950. Since 1986 an institute for Pacific Archaeology and Cultural History is tied to the Museum as well. Heyerdahl lived his last years on Tenerife, The Canary Islands, with his third wife Jacqueline, where he took part in creating a Museum and center for research. Heyerdahl lived also in Colla Micheri in Italy, where his life ended. He, and his second wife Yvonne, and children Annette (†), Marian, and Bettina owned and restored a village from the Roman era.

With his first wife Liv (†), he had two children, Thor Jr., and Bjørn of which the former is the current head of the board of the directors at the Kon-Tiki Museum, and the latter is taking care of the family farm in Italy producing olives and wine.

Thor Heyerdahl was an extraordinary and complex person in many ways, both controversial and humble at the same time. He cared very much for the environment and reflected over the "big issues" in life as well as battling fiercely to prove his theories on diffusion and contacts between the great civilizations of the past.

Now, when he has set out on his final journey he will be greatly missed, not just by family and friends, but also by his many readers and admirers, as well as many scholars.

Thor, *Te Rai ma te ata*
Maururu Nui

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FROM THE EDITORS

NEWS OF THOR HEYERDAHL'S DEATH saddened us all. He will be long remembered. It was through his early books, such as *Aku-Aku*, that many of us first became fascinated with Easter Island. We thank Helene Martinsson-Wallin and Paul Wallin of the Kon-Tiki Museum for providing an obituary for the *Journal* and to Don Ryan for the photograph.

ONE OF EASTER ISLAND'S "culture-bearers" has died. We are sad to report that Rafael Haoa (1925-2002) passed away in July of this year. Rafael was in the Armada de Chile for 36 years, beginning in 1946. Following his retirement, and for the next twenty years, Rafael worked with many scholars, anthropologists, and writers who studied the Rapanui culture, and was an associate professor of Rapanui language at the school on Easter Island. He worked with Ramón Campbell on *La Herencia Musical de Rapa Nui* and with also with Federico Felbermayer (*Historias y Leyendas de Isla de Pascua*). He leaves two surviving children, Ana Betty and Miriam Magdalena, and his widow, Ana Rapahango. His daughter, Ana Betty, is the director of the Biblioteca Rapanui at the Fonck Museum in Viña del Mar.

IN THIS ISSUE WE PRESENT a second portion of papers from the International Union of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences Symposium, held in Belgium last year. The first group of papers was published in *RNJ* (Vol. 16:1). Papers in this issue include "The *Marae* Temple Grounds in the Society Islands, French Polynesia: A Structural Study of Spatial Relations" by P. Wallin and R. Solsvik; and "Sea, Land, and Sky as Structuring Principles in Easter Island Prehistory" by H. Martinsson-Wallin.

PAUL TRACHTMAN'S essay in the last *RNJ* (Vol. 16:1) provided our readers with the opinions and thoughts of many Rapanui islanders. In this issue he presents more in-depth discussions with the island's artists and a photo essay of islanders and islander art. As an artist himself, Trachtman was embraced by the

artists of Rapa Nui who shared their thoughts and experiences with him.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE we welcome Andreas Mieth, Hans-Rudolf Bork and Ingo Feeser of Ökologie-Zentrum, Universität Kiel. Their paper discusses land use on Poike peninsula and provides a fascinating analysis of the soil and what that can tell us about ancient agricultural practices and settlement of that understudied part of the island. It is probable that soil erosion rates were very high from the late 13th to the early 15th centuries. The people of Rapa Nui lost most of their very fertile soils in one century, and not only at Poike but also in the western slope of Rano Raraku. Their research project continues, and we hope to have more on their work in a future issue of the *Journal*.

FERREN MACINTYRE CONTRIBUTES another out-of-the-ordinary paper, "Simultaneous Settlement of Indo-Pacific Extremes?" MacIntyre, a professor of Oceanography, is our "in house" version of Stephen Jay Gould, providing us with thought-provoking essays such as his two-part study of the physical oceanography of El Niño (*RNJ* Vol. 15, Nos. 1-2).

WE ARE PLEASED TO INCLUDE an update on "things Rapanui" by David Stanley, the noted travel writer. Stanley was on the island recently, gathering material for his next edition of *South Pacific Handbook* and kindly shared his observations with us. Things are changing on the island, as Stanley notes, and not all of them are positive. There are two things that shock visitors who return to Rapa Nui after many years away: the proliferation of automobiles (including hordes of taxis) and the appearance of shacks (*paepae*) that have sprung up around the island, often disastrously near *ahu* and other sacred sites. The one located in front of Ahu Akivi has been an eyesore for years and totally ruins the ambience of the site. But now more islanders are claiming land and putting up *paepae*. Visitors come to glory in

the open land and exotic ruins, not to be faced with untidy shacks and fences.

IN OUR OCTOBER 2001 ISSUE (Vol. 15:2), we printed "A Look Back" from 1924 when a Major Douglas and a Mr Johnson visited Easter Island and were astonished to encounter Percy Edmunds' ancient Ford automobile, chugging along on a island path. Subsequently we received a cartoon from Rapanuiophile Tom Christopher that has echoes of Edmunds' vehicle. The cartoon, drawn by Peter Gullerud, was found by Christopher on eBay and can be seen on page 112. It is described by Gullerud as two sisters congratulating each other on their new car, while a masked boyfriend looks on enviously. In an interesting case of synchronicity, the artist was unaware of the old Edmunds' vehicle that was on the island in the early days. Great stuff.

FOR OUR "A LOOK BACK" FEATURE in this issue we include excerpts from *The Last Cruise of the Carnegie*, by J. Harland Paul. The *Carnegie* was on Easter Island in 1928 and the observations made by the visitors are interesting, particularly those describing the village and life of the islanders at that time. Mentioned also is the wreck of the *El Dorado* (see Captain Benson's log, *RNJ* 15(1):31-48, 2001), and the arrival of the German fleet in 1914. It is called the "last cruise" because it was: the *Carnegie* subsequently blew up and sank in the harbor at Apia, Samoa, with the loss of its captain and cabin boy.

THE DENGUE FEVER PROBLEM: As readers will see in the Letters to the Editor (page 124), dengue fever has caused a major drop in visitors to the island, and efforts to eradicate the guilty mosquito creates other problems, for pesticides that are banned in many other countries have been (and are being) sprayed around the village and the island. Other creative ideas have been put forth, and we support with enthusiasm any means that will safely rid the island of *Aedes aegypti*.

WE'D LIKE TO START A CAMPAIGN to use the Rapanui word *nga'atu* instead of "totora" for the ubiquitous reed that grows in the crater lakes, *Scirpus californicus*. "Totora" is a modern foreign introduction; it is neither a Rapanui nor a Polynesian word, and is not used by the Rapanui people. So shape up, out there!

EIF PROJECTS FOR THE FUTURE include our next international conference on Easter Island and the Pacific to be held in September 2004. This meeting will be in Viña del Mar, Chile, in conjunction with the University of Valparaíso and its new *Centro de Estudios Rapa Nui*, which will host the conference. The *Centro de Estudios* is headed by archaeologist José Miguel Ramírez, a name that is familiar to all from our previous meetings as well as from his numerous publications.

The dates and events set for the 2004 conference are: September 21 (Tuesday): arrival, registration, and welcome party; Sessions from September 22 through 25th. On Sunday 26th, departure to Easter Island. There will be tours and traditional *umu* parties while on the island where conference attendees will have an opportunity to meet and interact with local Rapanui islanders. Those going west may leave for Tahiti on September 29 (Wednesday); those returning to Santiago may leave on September 30 (Thursday). We look forward with

anticipation to this international gathering which will take place at an all-inclusive conference center, just north of beautiful Viña del Mar. Exciting events are being planned, including wine tastings with the excellent Chilean wineries. The optional excursion to Easter Island at the end of the meetings will be a highlight and rare opportunity to visit the island in the company of noted archaeologists and anthropologists. At this time, we are issuing a call for proposals and/or papers for *VI International Conference on Easter Island and the Pacific*. Contact us at the EIF or visit our web page, www.islandheritage.org.

THE ANNUAL EASTER ISLAND FOUNDATION board meeting was held in May of this year at Los Osos, California. The new president of the Foundation is Dr Christopher M. Stevenson, a name that is familiar to archaeologists and readers of *RNJ*. Stevenson has a long list of important publications to his credit and we look forward, with great expectations, to his term of office. See the EIF News on pages 126-127.

IN OTHER NEWS IN THE WORLD OF ARCHAEOLOGY, a perceptive editorial in *Antiquity* (Vol. 75:288 for June 2001) by Simon Stoddart and Caroline Malone discusses the non-publication of fieldwork, a recurring problem in archaeological studies everywhere. The excavation of a site destroys it and the information can only be preserved in record...and this is something that only the excavator can effectively do. The longer the time span, the less apt it is to be a complete record. Stoddart and Malone claim that if the original excavator has not begun publication within ten years of completing fieldwork, it is unlikely he/she will ever do so. Easter Island archaeological studies are a prime example. While some, such as Christopher Stevenson, promptly publish results of field work, we can all think of many who work on Easter Island who have never published a word about their work. Or, they have written up a vanilla-flavored piece of fluff that provides no serious information. Stoddart and Malone address the idea of stopping excavation projects until publication is completed, or providing sanctions for those who do not publish.

PLEASE NOTE A CORRECTION for our last issue: in *RNJ* Vol. 16 (1), for the map (Figure 4) on page 12, the arrow should be 30° to the left of the grid marks. We regret the error.

LASTLY, THE EDITORS WOULD LIKE to encourage our readers to take a few minutes to comment, complain, or just toss a few bouquets in our direction. We appreciate feedback and suggestions.

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